



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

SPECIES FACTS: SPALDING'S CATCHFLY **(*Silene spaldingii*)**



Spalding's catchfly • Photo by Janice Hill

SPALDING'S CATCHFLY, a member of the carnation, or pink, family, is a long-lived perennial herb. It has greenish-white flowers, lance-shaped leaves, and ranges from 8 to 24 inches in height. The plant is distinguished by its very sticky foliage and flower petals, hence the name "catchfly."

- The plant flowers late in the season (July to September). It is easiest to spot during that time, when the plant is green and surrounding vegetation is dry and brown. Spalding's catchfly taproots can grow to over 3 feet, making it very difficult to transplant.
- Spalding's catchfly was listed as a threatened species in October, 2001. (66 FR 51598).

- The plant is listed as endangered by the State of Oregon; as threatened by the Washington Natural Heritage Program; and is considered to be rare and imperiled by Natural Heritage Programs and Conservation Data Centers in all states and provinces where the species occurs. The Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service consider the plant a sensitive species.

- Spalding's catchfly is native to portions of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia, Canada. Fifty-eight percent of Spalding's catchfly populations occur either entirely or partially on private land; the remaining populations occur on federal lands (U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuges, National Park Service, and Department of Defense), and state and tribal lands.

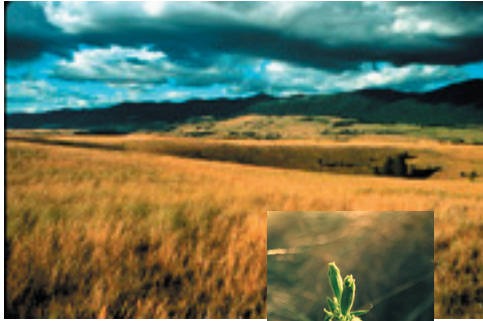
- The plant prefers open moist grasslands, but may also be found in sagebrush-steppe habitats, as well as pine forests. Spalding's catchfly grasslands are comprised of Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, and, in Montana, rough fescue.

- The species may be impacted by invasive nonnative plants, loss of habitat due to human development, and habitat degradation associated with domestic livestock and wildlife grazing. Other impacts may include changes in fire frequency and intensity, off-road vehicle use, and herbicide spraying and drift. Some conservation measures may include fencing, invasive nonnative plant control programs, and population augmentation.

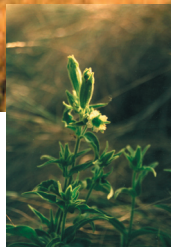


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: Draft Recovery Plan for Spalding Catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*)



Spalding's catchfly habitat
Photo by Bonnie Heidel



Spalding's catchfly • Photo by Janice Hill

What is "recovery?"

Recovery is the process by which the decline of an endangered or threatened species is arrested or reversed and threats neutralized so that its survival in the wild can be ensured. The goal of the Endangered Species Act is the recovery of listed species to levels where protection under the Act is no longer necessary.

What are recovery plans?

Recovery plans are documents prepared for listed species that detail the specific tasks needed to recover those species. They provide a blueprint for private, federal, tribal and state cooperation in the conservation of threatened and endangered species and their ecosystems. They are advisory and carry no regulatory authority.

Are recovery plans required by law?

Yes. The Endangered Species Act requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act requires that during plan development the Service provide an opportunity for public review and comment. Information presented during the public comment period will be considered in the preparation of this final recovery plan and will be summarized in an appendix to the recovery plan.

Who writes a recovery plan?

Recovery plans may be written by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists and may use the expertise of individuals from other federal or state agencies or private contractors. Recovery plans are sometimes prepared with the assistance of recovery teams, contractors, state and federal agencies, and other interested parties. Recovery plans are published by the Service, and represent the official position of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service only after they have been signed by the Regional Director or Director. Approved recovery plans are subject to modification as dictated by new findings, changes in species status, and completion of recovery tasks.

What is the objective of a recovery plan?

The objective of a recovery plan is to provide a framework for species recovery in its natural habitat so that protection under the Endangered Species Act is no longer necessary. The Act requires development and implementation of a recovery plan for all listed species unless such plans would not contribute to their conservation. Recovery plans describe tasks that when accomplished, should ensure the species' survival and eventual removal from the federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species. Time and costs associated with implementing the measures needed for recovery are addressed in the recovery plan, as well as any other pertinent priorities.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: Draft Recovery Plan for Spalding Catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*)

What are the Spalding's catchfly recovery plan goals?

The objective of the Spalding's catchfly recovery plan is to recover the species by protecting and maintaining reproducing, self-sustaining populations in each of the five distinct physiographic regions where it occurs.

The draft recovery plan calls for the development of habitat management plans at key conservation areas. These plans will address conservation measures for self-sustaining Spalding's catchfly populations, including invasive non-native plant control, plant surveys and monitoring, fire management, livestock grazing management, and pollinator protection. Activities such as herbicide spraying, seed banking, Population Viability Analysis, and agricultural/urban development are also addressed in the draft recovery plan.

How can the public participate in recovery planning?

The Service encourages the public to comment on the draft plan and become involved in the implementation of recovery efforts on private, state, federal, and tribal lands. Public comment may include scientific information about Spalding's catchfly, ideas and comments about potential conservation actions for the plant, and possible impacts to the species on lands that are either privately owned or managed by state/federal agencies and the tribes.

Under the Act, plants are not afforded protection on private or state-owned lands unless there is a federal connection. Private landowner participation in plant conservation is voluntary.

Through partnerships with private landowners, state and federal agencies, tribes, and nongovernmental organizations and associations, the Service hopes to develop a recovery strategy that results in the ultimate delisting of the species.

When might recovery occur for Spalding's catchfly?

If recovery conservation measures are successful, Spalding's catchfly may be de-listed by 2040. Because the plant is a long-lived perennial species, annual population data may vary significantly in response to climatic events. A minimum of 20 years, therefore, will be needed to determine long-term population trends.

The estimated recovery date reflects the need for long-term monitoring, as well as the time it may take to supplement or establish new populations of the plant.

How much will Spalding's catchfly recovery cost?

The total estimated cost for recovery of this species is \$8,543,000. The average yearly cost for the first five years is estimated to be \$343,400. Of the estimated total cost, roughly 25% of the funding will be directed toward surveys and monitoring.

When will a final Spalding's catchfly recovery plan be released?

A final recovery plan for Spalding's catchfly is expected to be released in 2006.

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When is the public comment period for the draft recovery plan?

A public review and comment period is established with the release of this draft recovery plan. Comments must be received by close of business May 15, 2006.

How can I comment?

Comments may be submitted in writing to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 368, Boise, Idaho 83709. Comments may also be faxed to 208-378-5262, or e-mailed to fw1srbocomment@fws.gov. Please include "Spalding's Catchfly Comments" in the title line for faxes and e-mails, with the name and address of the person submitting comments included in the message. If our Internet connection is disrupted, please submit your comments by mail or fax to the contact office above.

How do I obtain a copy of the draft recovery plan?

The draft recovery plan may be viewed online at <http://idahoes.fws.gov>. Copies of the draft recovery plan are available for inspection, by appointment during normal business hours, at the following locations:

IDAHO

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office
1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 368, Boise, Idaho 83709 (ph 208-378-5243; fax 208-378-5262)

MONTANA

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Helena Fish and Wildlife Office
585 Shepard Way, Helena, Montana 59601 (406-449-5225; fax 406-449-5339)

OREGON

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, La Grande Fish and Wildlife Office
3502 Highway 30, La Grande, Oregon 97850 (ph 541-962-8584; fax 541-962-8581)

WASHINGTON

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Upper Columbia Fish and Wildlife Office
11103 East Montgomery Dr, Suite 2, Spokane, Washington 99206 (ph 509-665-3508; fax 665-3509)

How do I get more information about Spalding's catchfly recovery?

Contact Susan Burch, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 368, Boise, Idaho 83709, 208-378-5243, fax 208-378-5262.